State Government, about the progress achieved in implementing the IRDP programmes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) A Conference of Secretaries and Ministers of Rural Development was held on 23rd and 24th October, 1986 respectively. The implementation of rural development programmes in general and IRDP in particular, was reviewed. The States have been advised to ensure that targets fixed for the current year are achieved.

(b) A statement indicating allocation made to each State for IRDP during the last three years is attached [*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No 69]

(c) and (d) The States are required to send monthly progress reports as per key indicators for monitoring of the programme. No separate report has been asked for.

Revision of list of scheduled castes

1751. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for considering a particular caste as scheduled caste;

(b) whether there are some communities, who do not conform to these norms are included in the list of Scheduled Castes at present, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure that the list is revised in terms of the norms?

THE DEPUTY MINSTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) The norms adopted for scheduling a community as Scheduled Caste in relation to a State/Union Territory include fulfilling the criteria viz., extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability and consultation with the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration and the Registrar General of India. The above norms were adopted while notifying Presidential Orders specifying Scheduled Castes in relation to various States/Union Territorises in accordance with the provisions made under Article 341 of the Constitution.

Imported steel billets

1752. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th October, 1986 under the caption "No claimant for imported billets";

(b) what were the specifications given by the SAIL to the MMTC for import of the billets;

(c) what were the specifications given by the MMTC to the contractor — supplier of the billets;

(d) whether it is a fact that the billets were examined by an independent body before the shipment, if so, what is the report of the body; and

(e) what is the extent of loss likely to be suffered in this deal and what action is being taken by the SAIL/MMTC to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited had requested Minerals and Metlas Trading Corporation of India Limited for import of billets conforming to IS: 2830/75 Gr. II Fe 410 SB

2 with restricted chemical composition as below:

Carbon	0.17 — 0.21%
Manganese	0.50 — 0.90%
Sulphur &	0.05%
Phosphorous	max. each.

(c) MSTC in their purchase order gave the specification IS: 2830/75 Gr. II Fe 410 SB 2 with chemical composition as below:

Carbon	0.17 — 0.23%
Manganese	0.50 — 0.90%
Sulphur &	0.05%
Phosphorous	max. each.

The change in range of carbon content had the acceptance of SAIL.

(d) MMTC has reported that the billets were inspected by an independent inspection agency, namely Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS). The inspection report indicated that the materials were in conformity with IS 2830/75 Fe 410 SB 2 billets. The test certificates however gave the following composition.

Carbon	00.17 — 0.23%
Manganese	0.50 — 0.90%
Sulphur &	0.05%
Phosphorous	max.
Copper	0.40 percent max.
Copper + Nickel + Chromium	0.80 percent max.

The presence of Copper, Nickel and Chromium was not as per agreement between MMTC/SAIL and Supplier.

(e) The extent of loss to SAIL/MMTC will depend upon the disposal of material to alternative actual users for which authorization has already been given to MMTC. SAIL have lodged a claim on MMTC for Rs. 17 37 crore plus storage and interest charges.

Supply of Copper Anode Slimes by HCL

1753. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Copper Limited had entered into an agreement with a company for supply of 60 MT of Copper Anode Slimes @ 5 MT every month during 1986-87;

(b) whether it is a fact that HCL stopped supplying the material to the company;

(c) what action is being taken against the persons concerned who have taken this unilateral decision thus bringing bad name to the HCL; and

(d) by when the supplies of Copper Anode Slimes are likely to be resumed to the said company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and d) As provided under the terms of the contract, the Gujarat Bullion Refinery has referred the matter to arbitration. Resumption of supplies would depend on the outcome of the arbitration proceedings. The question of taking action against any person therefore, does not arise.

Fall in marine fish landings

1754. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep fall in marine fish catch as reported in the 'Times of India' of 27th October, 1986, if so, the reasons therefor and corrective steps taken so far and results thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that life standard of fishermen and fish venders has gone down due to the entry